



## Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting Minutes

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December 7, 2017

9:30 AM

1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission convened on December 7, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at 1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Present and absent were the following members of the commission:

### Members Present

Cindi Nannetti, Chair	Shawn Cox
Jason Holmberg	Helen Gándara
Jane Kallal	Alice Bustillo
Debra Olson	Robert Thomas
Rob Lubitz	Leslie Quinn
Christina Schopen	Vada Phelps
Myrtle Young	Joseph Kelroy
Heather Carter	Greg McKay
Dennis Pickering	

### Members Absent

Tom Callahan	Shaun Rieve
Dan Goldfine	James Beene
Jose Gonzales	Dorothy Wodraska
Don Walker	Guadalupe Durazo
Robert Brutinel	
Mindy Flannery	
James Molina	
Joseph Grossman	

### Staff and Guests Present

Maria Fuentes, GOYFF	Mary McIntosh
John Raeder, GOYFF	Chris Hegstrom, ADJC
Steve Selover, GOYFF	Keven Patrick, Friendly House
Sonya Pierce-Johnson, GOYFF	Hugh Wolf, Friendly House
Nikki Green, GOYFF	David Redpath, AOC
Samuel Burba, GOYFF	Katie Penkoff, AIR
Catie Clark, ACJC	Jeromie O'Meara, Scottsdale PD
Joanne Meierdirks, YFS	Bruce Ciolli

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Cindi Nannetti called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

## **2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Nannetti requested introductions by all present. Ms. Maria Fuentes was introduced as the new director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. Ms. Fuentes provided a brief summary of her background and experience working in juvenile justice and child welfare.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the meeting held September 28, 2017 were reviewed. Ms. Myrtle Young moved that the minutes be approved as drafted. Dr. Leslie Quinn seconded the motion. Motion passed on unanimous vote.

## **4. 2016 ARIZONA YOUTH SURVEY**

Ms. Catie Clark from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) presented highlights on the most recently conducted Arizona Youth Survey (AYS), a bi-annual questionnaire given to middle and high school students across Arizona to gather data on school climate, student drug use and well-being. Ms. Clark added that ACJC is currently recruiting schools to participate in the 2018 survey and stated that efforts are underway to ensure more schools are recruited in under-represented counties.

Results show the three highest reported drugs used by survey participants were alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes. The survey demonstrated that marijuana was perceived as the least risky substance, while cigarette use was the most risky. The most common stress-related reason for using substances was school stress. The AYS also listed the most prevalent risk factors including norms that favor drug use, family conflict, low commitment to school and early initiation of drug use. Highly correlated protective factors included rewards for prosocial involvement, opportunity for prosocial involvement (family and school), and belief in the moral order. In addition to substance use, the survey included county-by-county results for engaging in risky behaviors such as assault, carrying a handgun and selling illegal drugs. It also included questions on physical and electronic bullying. Ms. Clark noted that riskier behaviors are generally positively correlated with increased age of the survey respondent. Ms. Clark stated that overall trends show a decline in substance use and other risky behaviors since 2014 and added that a report is forthcoming that will depict trends from 2008—2016.

## **5. RED TRAINING OVERVIEW**

Mr. David Redpath provided an update for the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) training provided by the Haywood Burns Institute and supported by the Arizona Supreme Court and Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family. The training was provided to five counties (Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Cochise and Yuma) in the spring of 2017 with the objective to identify disparities in points within the court system and create a plan of action for determining why disparities exist. Mr. Redpath noted that these counties represent approximately 85% of the juvenile justice population in Arizona.

Mr. Redpath gave a brief summary of outcomes for the project, which included goals and action steps for each participating county. Each county convenes a workgroup that meets regularly to implement these tasks and monitor progress toward their objectives. Some strategies used to address disparities include engaging additional stakeholders and the community, conducting focus groups and surveys, examining transportation issues, and identifying community resources that could serve as an alternative to detention. Due to this work, Pinal County was selected to participate in a nationally conducted police engagement study with the capstone project. In response to a question regarding the ultimate objective for this project, Mr. Redpath stated that reduction in racial and ethnic disparities is the specific goal for this project; however, the courts are continuously evaluating court referrals and petitions to assess the impact on public safety.

## **6. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

Scottsdale Assistant Police Chief Helen Gandara, Scottsdale Police Sergeant Jeromie O'Meara, and Ms. Joanne Meierdirks from Youth and Family Services provided an overview of the Restorative Justice Intervention Program (RJIP). Ms. Gandara stated that the program began with partnerships between the police department, the prosecutor's office, and Youth and Family Resources to operate a diversion program for certain low-level offenses, such as status offenses, shoplifting and non-violent drug offenses (i.e., possession of drug paraphernalia). The program occurs prior to arrest and requires successful completion of the program to avoid court involvement.

Ms. Gandara shared that the program is voluntary. All parties, including the victim, must agree to participate. Youth and Family Services works with the RJIP participant to create an individualized plan and also conducts a post service questionnaire for data collection. Sgt. O'Meara advised that during the first year of program implementation, 161 minors have participated with 133 having successfully completed. Three participants were unsuccessful in completing the program requirements, and 25 are currently participating. The most prevalent offense committed by participants is possession of tobacco/vape or paraphernalia, followed by possession or use of drug paraphernalia, marijuana possession or use, and shoplifting.

## **7. YOUTH & FAMILY RESOURCES LOCATOR**

Mr. Steve Selover provided a brief demonstration of the youth and family services search tool that will allow parents and professionals to search for resources that provide family support and behavioral health/substance abuse related services. The program is unique in that it specifically targets services for youth, in addition to supportive services to address family needs, throughout the state. The website will be regularly updated by a contracted vendor and by the agencies themselves. The contracted provider and GOYFF will maintain integrity of the tool by omitting service providers that do not deliver services listed on their website.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **DMC/Compliance Committee**

Ms. Gandara stated that the committee has decided to focus exclusively on the issue of the DMC core requirement. Ms. Gandara referred to a one-page scope of work for the

committee, which will include monitoring the state's efforts to reduce DMC and increasing engagement with the community.

#### **Systems Improvement Committee**

Ms. Christina Schopen stated that the Systems Improvement Committee has not met since the last full commission meeting. She added that the Information Sharing Guide is pending legal review. It is hoped that the guide will be ready in time for the next commission meeting.

### **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were presented by the commission members.

### **10. SPECIAL RECOGNITION: ROB LUBITZ**

Ms. Nannetti presented the governor's commendation for Mr. Rob Lubitz's 10 years on the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission. Mr. Lubitz stated he has enjoyed his long tenure on the commission working with fellow commissioners and staff.

### **11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Mary McIntosh made a statement regarding the need for greater oversight with justice involved treatment and programming.

Mr. Kevin Patrick and Mr. Hugh Wolf provided a brief description of their youth programming and offered to present at an upcoming commission meeting to provide additional details and discuss available resources.

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Nannetti adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.